



International Code Council
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Dear Members of the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts, Inc.:

The International Code Council (Code Council) commends the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts for supporting the adoption of codes that require the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems in newly constructed dwellings.

In the debate regarding the role of government in our lives, it is clear that the issue of public safety remains above the fray as a fundamental responsibility of our elected officials. Public safety efforts include not only providing visible law enforcement, but maintaining a pro-active approach to reducing risks to life and property and improving public and firefighter safety in the built environment.

The Code Council stands with our members who actively support the adoption and enforcement of the I-Codes, and all relevant safety provisions, including Section R313 of the International Residential Code (IRC) which requires installation of automatic residential fire sprinkler systems in townhouses and one and two family dwellings. We recognize the need for the fire service to adapt to the changes in construction techniques and we respect the jurisdictions' authority to adapt the model codes to meet the needs of communities across the country. The commitment to safety cannot be compromised by self-interest or the path of least resistance.

ICC encourages its members, stakeholders and decision-makers to support the best approaches to insure we are safe and secure where we live, work and play. The 2009 I-Codes provide jurisdictions with the newest safety protections. The ICC adoptions toolkit provides information for elected officials and building and fire inspectors about the 2009 I-Codes. The Code Council appreciates and thanks the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association, the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts and all other organizations who have taken a position in support of the adoption and enforcement of the 2009 IRC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara C. Yerkes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized.

Sara C. Yerkes
Senior Vice President, Government Relations